

FLATHEAD COUNTY FAIR COMMISSION
Special Meeting
Meeting minutes from September 14, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Fair Commission on September 14, 2017 meeting was called to order by Sam Nunnally at 6:30 pm in the 4H Building at the Flathead County Fairgrounds.

Roll call of members: Sam Nunnally, Wes McAlpin, Doug Wise, Butch Woolard, Mark Carlson, were present. Liaison member Pam Holmquist was also in attendance.

Staff present: Mark Campbell.

Guests present: Sharon Askelson and Pete Woll.

Agenda approval: Wes McAlpin moved to approve the agenda as presented. Doug Wise seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

Past meeting minutes: Minutes from July 13th, August 3rd, August 11th and Fair de-briefing meetings of August 16th – August 20th were presented for review. Doug Wise moved to approve all the minutes as presented. Seconded by Butch. Motion carried with all members in favor.

Public Comment: Sam called for public comment. Sharon stated that the parking situation between floriculture and draft horses worked out well. Color coding of the fence signs between the groups would be helpful. No further public comment was heard.

Entering exhibits – Sharon Askelson: Sharon is concerned with the difficulty of entering items into the fair. Some of the hurdles asked of them don't work. She displayed the former exhibit tags that had multiple benefits. This year's stick-on tags are too small to be read, don't have a receipt, entry deadline doesn't work for flowers or vegetables. These hurdles are deterring people from participating. Need to work together and get the issues worked out. Sam asked if rules for floriculture and horticulture could be different. Mark responded that they are only encouraged to pre-enter. The steps have been made to reduce mistakes but recognize they also cause other challenges. Working together to make the system easier to use while gaining staff efficiency is needed. Further discussion about options and areas that can be better was held.

Manager's report: Mark provided an update on the construction. Demolition is proceeding with north and south buildings effectively gone. Grandstand steps are next with traffic revisions in place. Forms are expected to be started by 9/21. Pushing for City permit by mid next week. Sharon commented that the bathrooms look better now than they have for years.

Fair and rodeo numbers look solid in all categories. Premium checks should be released by mid-next week. Fairground activities were covered with interest into March and April of next year. Fair clean-up continues. Storage has started due to smoke and cold snap.

Financial statement through August was presented with 61.7% on revenues and 25.34% of expenses. Still a few outstanding revenues to collect and multiple fair related bills to pay with September being a more accurate reflection of budget position. The final gate report from Sunday of fair was shared. A final ticket sales report with slight adjustments was also provided. Food sales by year was provided with totals trending upwards. Also a stand by stand breakdown was provided with minor notations

mentioned. A carnival report of sales was reviewed with the highest gross recorded. Discussion about a possible increase in pay-one-price ride ticket was held.

Committee or Director Reports: no reports given.

Old Business: Mark provided further detail on the ADA project underway. He is comfortable with the team in place and while behind schedule a few days, those can be made up if forms are set next week. No major change orders have arisen at this point and current focus is acquiring the building permit. Sam opened the floor for a review of the Fair. Doug wished to commend everyone for a job well-done. All problems were handled exceptionally well, kept their cool, and were very supportive. Butch complimented the staff and felt everyone worked well together. Pete Woll noted the office and gate personnel were very helpful and informed. Following sale day, he released the remaining hogs in the morning due to cool weather. He had swine exhibitors clean their areas early which helped eliminate congestion during Demolition Derby time. Both Pete and Wes noted the Saturday night 4H/FFA dance had issues and will need to be resolved before it happens again. Sharon thought some more training in the office would eliminate doubling of help. Pete suggested a pool format of clerks that could be drawn from for department needs. Doug asked about a booth to assist with initial needs or questions. Mark agreed but a ticket office would be first step to handle most of the questions or wants. Sam asked about diminishing the use of boards with pigs, is it possible? Wes responded that is a pre-training need with all three species. Herdsmanship in general can be improved upon and becomes an attitude. Arena and sales ring are at capacity with another bleacher needed. Wes reported that all-in-all it was a good fair with great support.

Sam recognized the need for more benches throughout the ground. Doug and Sam feel the Expo Building is underutilized and needs re-organization. Consider a switch of the displays and commercial booths which will eventually help both groups. Logistics such as lighting, electrical, and layout were discussed. Sharon recommends better ground signage directing people where the exhibits are. Doug also brought up the trash dumpster locations as valuable space. Is there a space to move those and the carnival trucks to a better location? Also moving mini horses to where the llamas are provides better visibility and program operation. The sponsor area for the rodeo has dwindling attendance and could be used by these companies as an employee thank you. Develop a plan on how this would work, benefits, and when it happens. A pre-event thank you to the sponsors could have many positives. Wes heard nothing but positives about the pricing, concert, rodeo, and fair.

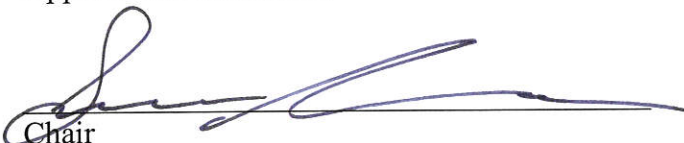
Fair Conventions are upcoming and Sam asked who might be attending. Butch, Sam, and Wes would like to attend the Rocky Mountain Fair Conference. No interest at IAFE at this time. Doug has commitments outside of the area during both.

No further new business was presented.

Adjournment: Doug moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm, seconded by Wes. All were in favor.

Submitted by: mc

Approved as submitted:


Chair

10-12-17
Date